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Regional cooperation

Regional dimension of development in the Latin American and Caribbean region

Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/2012/L.36

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its draft resolution E/2012/L.36, endorsed Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) resolution 674 (XXXIV) of 31 August 2012, by which the Commission had requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to respond urgently and appropriately to the strategic challenges arising from the various activities being undertaken to define the development agenda beyond 2015, taking into account the needs and priorities of the Latin American and Caribbean region, and to ensure the strategic coordination of the United Nations system at the regional level in support of integration efforts, through the Regional Coordination Mechanism and in consultation with other regional and subregional organizations.

2. In paragraph 1 of the resolution, adopted by ECLAC at its thirty-fourth session, held in San Salvador from 27 to 31 August 2012, the Executive Secretary was requested to respond urgently and appropriately to the strategic challenges arising from the various activities being undertaken to define the development agenda beyond 2015, taking into account the needs and priorities of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

3. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, member States recognized the need for the Commission to enlist the immediate support of the relevant bodies to enhance its capacity to tackle the new strategic challenges.

4. In paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Executive Secretary was requested to ensure the strategic coordination of the United Nations system at the regional level,

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in support of integration efforts, through the Regional Coordination Mechanism and in consultation with other regional and subregional organizations.

II. Relationship of the requests to the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013

5. The activities to be carried out relate to programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 (A/65/6/Rev.1). They also fall under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (A/66/6 (Sect. 21)). The adoption of the draft resolution would not require modification of the programme of work under programme 17.

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

6. Taking into account the organizational structure approved by the General Assembly for ECLAC for the biennium 2012-2013, the capacity of its Executive Secretary to simultaneously maintain a high-level policy engagement with member States and actively participate in the decision-making process, both internally at the Secretariat and in the context of the United Nations system-wide and through the intergovernmental process of the United Nations, is hindered. Under its present organizational structure, ECLAC is not able to address the increasing number of challenges and global processes that stem from the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, or the progressively more complex agenda of regional development.

7. It is proposed, therefore, that the senior management structure of ECLAC be revised in order to fulfil the requests made in resolution 674 (XXXIV) aimed at ensuring the more efficient and effective use of human and financial resources to support the final phase of the efforts of member States to advance the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals and engage meaningfully in the debate on the development agenda beyond 2015 and to support member States through the process of negotiations of sustainable development goals.

8. Such a review will ensure greater effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of the Commission's programme of work by enhancing its management structures and reporting lines, with the overall aim of maximizing impact in member States, ensuring coherence and coordination at different levels, including the inter-agency coordination mandates and the Regional Coordination Mechanism. A functional structure with a more coherent and articulated approach to management will allow for a rapid response to the requests of countries and the appropriate level of interaction with high-level Government authorities and counterparts that would directly facilitate the efforts of member States to respond to the new and emerging development challenges in the post-crisis context.

9. ECLAC has two subregional headquarters, in Mexico City and Port of Spain, and four national offices, in Buenos Aires, Brasilia, Bogota and Montevideo, in addition to a liaison office in Washington, D.C., spread widely across the Americas. As such, a geographic dispersion of resources managed by each office exists, thus

requiring proper coordination and control. Each of the above-mentioned offices discharges complex programmatic and administrative operations requiring equivalent complex structures at all levels, such as in the areas of high-level political dialogue with subregional Government authorities and administrative matters. This exemplifies the dispersed span of control that the Executive Secretary has to exercise in the context of the geographic dispersion of all of the offices.

10. It is therefore proposed that an existing D-1 post be reclassified to the D-2 level to carry out the duties of Director of the subregional headquarters in Mexico. The incumbent will be responsible for the coordination of all staff performing functions in offices away from Santiago, comprising 55 Professional and 83 General Service posts, thus assisting the Executive Secretary in discharging her functions by reducing the lines of accountability reporting directly to her.

11. Furthermore, in order to better coordinate the response to the increasingly significant number of challenges that transcend national boundaries and to better address the multiple processes that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development has triggered, such as the proposal on sustainable development goals, it is imperative to strengthen links and communication with member States. It is therefore proposed that an existing P-4 post be reclassified to the P-5 level to carry out the duties of Political Affairs Officer in the Office of the Secretary of the Commission. The proposed upward reclassification will allow for better and improved interaction with member States and more efficient coordination of all subsidiary bodies of the Commission, including the enhancement of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the new Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, as well as for an enhanced involvement of the Commission in the development agenda beyond 2015.

12. In view of the need for the immediate commencement of all those processes and the need to address the Commission's management structure without further delay in order to provide member States with adequate support and assistance in the context of the upcoming path of multilateral negotiations and to promptly implement Commission resolution 674 (XXXIV), by which the Executive Secretary is requested to respond urgently and appropriately to strategic challenges, the changes set out above are proposed to come into effect as from 1 January 2013.

13. The proposed activities contained in the present document are aligned with requests of the General Assembly in part V, paragraphs 58 and 59, of its resolution 66/246, in which the Assembly emphasized the important contribution that regional commissions were making towards the implementation of the development agenda and other mandates given to them arising from the outcome of the Millennium Summit, the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields; and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the resource requirements of the commissions were allocated in such a way as to enable them to fully implement their mandates and contribute to the implementation of development priorities and mandates of the Organization.

IV. Estimated resource and staffing requirements for the biennium 2012-2013

14. To ensure enhanced support and assistance to the Commission to fulfil the request from member States in Commission resolution 674 (XXXIV), it is proposed that two existing posts be reclassified.

15. As detailed in paragraphs 10 and 11 above, it is therefore proposed that two existing posts be reclassified as follows:

(a) A D-1 post to the D-2 level, to carry out the duties of Director of the subregional headquarters in Mexico, under subprogramme 12, Subregional activities in Mexico and Central America, which would result in a net increase of $13,400;

(b) A P-4 post to the P-5 level, to carry out the duties of Political Affairs Officer in the Office of the Secretary of the Commission in Santiago, under executive direction and management, which would result in a net increase of $26,200.

16. The estimated net increase resulting from the proposed upward reclassifications for 2013 would be offset by the proposed abolition of one existing P-2 post from the Economic Development Division in Santiago, under subprogramme 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, which would result in savings of $105,800.

17. The functions of the post proposed for abolition will be absorbed by the remaining staff of the division. The proposed abolition would therefore have no negative impact on programme delivery of the organizational unit.

18. The estimated net resulting cost of the above would result in savings of $66,200 for the year 2013, as detailed in table 1 below. Table 2 details changes to the overall staffing requirements.

Table 1
Summary of total resource requirements (net)
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Component	*Initial appropriation 2012-2013*	*Change*	*Revised estimate 2012-2013*
1. Policymaking organs	1 371.2	–	1 371.2
2. Executive direction and management	6 534.1	26.2	6 560.3
3. Programme of work			
Subprogramme 1. Linkages with the global economy, regional integration and cooperation	6 075.9	–	6 090.9
Subprogramme 2. Production and innovation	5 465.0	–	5 465.0
Subprogramme 3. Macroeconomic policies and growth	6 965.3	(105.8)	6 859.5
Subprogramme 4. Financing for development	1 804.7	–	1 804.7
Subprogramme 5. Social development and equity	4 182.2	–	4 182.2
Subprogramme 6. Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development	2 342.4	–	2 342.4
Subprogramme 7. Population and development	3 410.7	–	3 410.7
Subprogramme 8. Sustainable development and human settlements	4 621.2	–	4 621.2

Component	Initial appropriation 2012-2013	Change	Revised estimate 2012-2013
Subprogramme 9. Natural resources and infrastructure	4 204.5	–	4 204.5
Subprogramme 10. Planning of public administration	2 036.5	–	2 036.5
Subprogramme 11. Statistics	4 834.1	–	4 834.1
Subprogramme 12. Subregional activities in Mexico and Central America	8 255.4	13.4	8 268.8
Subprogramme 13. Subregional activities in the Caribbean	6 513.1	–	6 513.1
Subtotal, 3	**60 711.0**	**(92.4)**	**60 618.6**
4. Programme support	41 639.7	–	41 639.7
Total	**110 256.0**	**(66.2)**	**110 189.8**

Table 2
Overall staffing requirements

	Professional and higher categories								Total Professional and higher categories	General Service and related categories		National staff		Total General Service and national staff	Total
	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2		Principal level	Other level	National Officer	Local level		
2012	1	–	1	14	29	62	59	49	**215**	–	4	2	273	279	**494**
2013	1	–	2	13	30	61	59	48	**214**	–	4	2	273	279	**493**
Change	–	–	**1**	**(1)**	**1**	**(1)**	–	**(1)**	**(1)**	–	–	–	–	–	**(1)**

V. Conclusion

19. **Should the Economic and Social Council adopt draft resolution E/2012/L.36, additional resources amounting to $39,600, required under section 21 of the programme budget for 2013 for the upgrading of two posts effective 1 January 2013, as detailed in paragraph 15 above, would be offset by the proposed abolition of one existing post effective 1 January 2013, which would result in savings of $105,800, as detailed in paragraphs 16 and 17, resulting in net savings amounting to $66,200.**

20. **Therefore, no additional resources will be required under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.**